

What is claimed is:

1 1. A phone system adapter box for use with a phone system controller
2 that is operable to provide a telephony feature, said phone system adapter box,
3 comprising:

4 a switch circuit operable to selectively couple a telephone to a telephone
5 line;

6 a wireless communication interface operable to establish a wireless
7 control channel between said wireless communication interface and said phone
8 system controller, said wireless control channel operable to carry control signals
9 associated with said telephony feature between said wireless communication
10 interface and said phone system controller; and

11 a housing operable to house said switch circuit and said wireless
12 communication interface.

1 2. The phone system adapter box of claim 1, wherein:
2 said switch circuit is further operable to selectively couple said telephone
3 to said wireless communication interface.

1 3. The phone system adapter box of claim 1, wherein:
2 said wireless communication interface is further operable to establish a
3 wireless communication channel between said wireless communication interface
4 and said phone system controller, said wireless communication channel
5 operable to carry audio signals between said telephone and said phone system
6 controller.

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1 7. A telephone system for providing a telephony feature, comprising a
2 phone system controller and a first telephone system interface, wherein:

3 said first telephone system interface is coupled between a first telephone
4 handset and a telephone line, said first telephone system interface operable to (i)
5 selectively couple said first telephone handset to said telephone line, and (ii)
6 establish a first wireless control channel to said phone system controller,

7 said wireless control channel operable to carry control signals associated
8 with said telephony feature between said first telephone system and said phone
9 system controller, and

10 said phone system controller is operable to (i) receive said first control
11 signals via said wireless control channel, and (ii) process said first control signals
12 to provide said telephony feature.

1 8. The telephone system of claim 7, wherein:

2 said first telephone system interface is further operable to establish a first
3 wireless communication channel to said phone system controller, and

4 said wireless communication channel is operable to carry voice signals
5 between said first telephone handset and said phone system controller.

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1 9. The telephone system of claim 8, wherein:

2 said phone system controller is coupled to said telephone line and is
3 further operable to (i) process said voice signals received via said first wireless
4 communication channel to obtain a telephone number, and (ii) dial said
5 telephone number by applying signals to said telephone line.

1 10. The telephone system of claim 7, further comprising a second
2 telephone system interface coupled between a second telephone handset and
3 said telephone line, wherein:

4 said second telephone system interface is operable to (i) selectively
5 couple said second telephone handset to said telephone line, (ii) receive said
6 control signals of said wireless control channel, and (iii) process said control
7 signals in accordance with said telephony feature.

1 11. The telephone system of claim 7, further comprising a second
2 telephone system interface coupled between a second telephone handset and
3 said telephone line, wherein:

4 said second telephone system interface operable to (i) selectively couple
5 said second telephone handset to said telephone line, (ii) transmit second
6 control signals via said wireless control channel to said first telephone system
7 interface, and (iii) establish a wireless communication channel between to said
8 first telephone system interface, said wireless communication channel operable
9 to carry voice signals of said second telephone handset to said first telephone
10 system interface,

11 said first telephone system interface is further operable to (i) receive said
12 voice signals of said second telephone system via said wireless communication
13 channel, and (ii) provide said voice signals to said first telephone handset.

1 12. The telephone system of claim 7, wherein:

2 said first telephone system interface couples said first telephone handset
3 to said telephone line in response to receiving a second control signal from said
4 phone system controller via said wireless control channel.

1 13. A method of connecting a telephone to a phone system controller that
2 provides a telephony feature, comprising the steps of:

3 establishing a wireless control channel between said phone system
4 controller and a phone system adapter box coupled to said telephone;

5 transmitting control signals associated with a telephony feature from said
6 phone system adapter box to said phone system controller; and

7 processing said control signals at said phone system controller in order to
8 provide said telephony feature.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said processing step comprises the
2 step of:

3 providing said telephony feature by said phone system controller applying
4 signals to a telephone line to which said phone system adapter box is coupled.

1 15. The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of (i)
2 establishing a wireless communications channel between said phone system
3 controller and said phone system adapter box; and (ii) transmitting voice signals
4 to said phone system controller via said wireless communications channel,
5 wherein:

6 said processing step includes the step of processing said voice signals in
7 order to provide said telephony feature.

1 16. The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of (i)
2 establishing a wireless communications channel between said phone system
3 controller and said phone system adapter box; and (ii) transmitting dialing signals
4 to said phone system controller via said wireless communications channel,
5 wherein:

6 said processing step includes the step of processing said dialing signals in
7 order to provide said telephony feature.

1 17. The method of claim 13, wherein said processing step includes the
2 step of transmitting from said phone system controller a second control signal
3 over said wireless control channel, further comprising the step of:

4 coupling said telephone to a telephone line in response to said second
5 control signal being received by said phone system adapter box.

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